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Cont

spanning the putative initiation codon of *heag* was used to test inhibition of proliferation. The sense ODN and a scrambled sequence (gtcgggtaccagtaggaggg) (SEQ ID NO: 16) were used as controls. Data shown in Figure 16A confirms the efficiency of the antisense ODN treatment in reducing the *heag* mRNA content in EFM cells. A reduction in *heag* mediated K⁺ currents in SHSY-5Y cells by treatment with antisense ODN is shown in Fig. 16B and C.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 2, 11-13, 16-31 and 33.

Amend claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 14, 15 and 32 as follows:

Sub D1

1. (Twice Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a (poly)peptide having a function of the human K⁺ ion *eag* channel, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- C9
- (a) a nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 13 or SEQ ID NO:14;
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complementary strand of a nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b) at 4XSSC at 65°C or at 4XSSC at 42°C in 50% formamide; and
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule being degenerate to the sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of (c).

~~2/3~~ (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

~~3/4~~ (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.

C¹⁰ ~~4/5~~ (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a fusion protein.

~~5/6~~ (Twice Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

~~7/8~~ (Twice Amended) A host cell transformed with the vector of claim ~~6~~ ⁵.

C¹¹ ~~8/9~~ (Twice Amended) The host cell of claim ~~8~~ ⁷, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a mammalian cell, a fungal cell, a plant cell, an insect cell and a bacterial cell.

C¹² ~~14~~ (Twice Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide, or optionally, in further combination with any one of the nucleic acid molecule, the vector, the polypeptide or the antibody, wherein the composition additionally comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

C12 Cont ^{Sub D2} 15. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule or an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide.

C13 ^{Sub D3} 32. (Twice Amended) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, a vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule or an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide.

Add the following claims 34-44:

^{Sub D4} 34. (Added) The kit according to claim 32 comprising the nucleic acid molecule, the vector, the polypeptide and the antibody.

¹⁴¹ 35. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is the sequence of part (a).

¹¹⁵ 36. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is the sequence of part (b).

C14 ¹¹⁶ 37. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is the sequence of part (c).

¹¹⁷ 38. (Added) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ¹¹⁶ 35-¹⁴¹ 37, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a fusion protein.

¹¹⁸ 39. (Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ¹⁴¹ 35-¹⁶⁰ 37.

¹⁹
~~40.~~ (Added) A host cell transformed with the vector of claim ~~39.~~ ¹⁸

²⁰
~~41.~~ (Added) A method of producing the (poly)peptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ~~35-37.~~ ^{14 16.}, comprising the steps of culturing the host comprising said nucleic acid molecule and isolating the produced (poly)peptide.

sub D5
42. (Added) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 35-37, a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide, or optionally, in further combination with any one of the nucleic acid molecule, the vector, the polypeptide or the antibody, wherein the composition additionally comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

C14 cont
43. (Added) A diagnostic composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 35-37, a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule or an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide.

44. (Added) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 35-37, a vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule, a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule or an antibody specifically directed against said polypeptide.